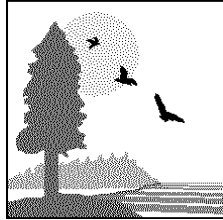


CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

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December 17, 2007

File Ref: W 9777.290

Dear Shipping Agent/Interested Party:

On October 15, 2007, the California State Lands Commission (Commission) approved regulations governing the implementation of performance standards for the discharge of ballast water for vessels operating in California waters (Title 2, Division 3, Chapter 1, Article 4.7) (see Attachment A).

The performance standards set limits for the number of living organisms allowed in ballast water discharges as a function of organism size classes (see Attachment A).

These regulations will be implemented on a graduated time schedule based on vessel age and ballast water capacity beginning January 1, 2009. Vessels constructed on or after January 1, 2009 with a ballast water capacity less than 5000 metric tons (MT), intending to discharge ballast water in California waters, must meet the performance standards outlined in the regulation. A final performance standard of zero detectable living organisms for all organism size classes will go into effect on January 1, 2020 (see Attachment A).

Additional requirements of the regulations, including applicability and definitions, may be found in Attachment A.

Because agents are one of the primary conduits of information for vessel owners and operators entering California ports or places, your assistance in providing notice to them is greatly appreciated. With your help, we expect the implementation of these regulations will proceed smoothly. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

If you have any questions, please contact me at the number listed above. Otherwise, refer to the Commission's web page at:
http://www.slc.ca.gov/Spec_Pub/MFD/Ballast_Water/Ballast_Water_Default.html

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Maurya B. Falkner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Maurya B. Falkner
Marine Invasive Species Program Manager
Marine Facilities Division

Attachment A